

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, PO
SUBJ: VISIT IN ITALY OF PCP SECRETARY GENERAL CUNHAL

/SUMMARY/: DURING E FEB. 11 PRESS CONFERENCE CUNHAL FIMRLY
MAINTAINED PCP DISTANCE FROM EUROCOMMUNISM IN HIS STATEMENT
THAT PORTUGAL, HAVING ABOLISHED THE BASES OF MONOPOLY CAPITALISM
IN THE APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION, IS SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY MORE
ADVANCED THAN THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE SO-CALLED EUROCOMMUNIST
PARTIES OPERATE, AND THEREFORE MUST FIND ITS OWN WAY TO SOCIALISM.
IN THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE AND GAIN IN A FEB. 13 INTERVIEW
IN THE PCI OFFICIAL PAPER, /L'UNITA/, CUNHAL REITERATED HIS
CRITICISM OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT FOR GOING BACKON REFORMS AND
GAINS ACHIEVED BY THE WORKERS AND FARMERS, AND RENEWED THE
PCP PROPOSAL OF A POPULAR FRONT OF THE LEFT. CUNHAL REFUSED
TO COMMENT ON DISSENT WITHIN THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
HE AFFIRMED HOWEVER THAT, WHILE THE PCP RESPECTS THE IMPORTANT
ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, THERE
ARE INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST PARTIES AND NONE MORE SO THAN THE PCP.
CUNHAL ALSO EXPRESSED PCP "LACK OF IMPATIENCE" IN REGARD TO SOLUTION
OF THE PROBLEM OF NATO AND THE AMERICAN BASES, A SOLUTION WHICH
THE PCP BELIEVES MUST BE FOUND WITHIN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF
DETENTE. /END SUMMARY/.

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1. DURING A FEBRUARY 11 PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN A /L'UNITA/
INTERVIEW CARRIED FEBRUARY 13, CUNHAL ATTRIBUTED PORTUGAL'S
UNIQUENESS, AND THIS THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ITS DEVELOPING
WITHIN THE EUROCOMMUNIST CONTEXT, TO THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF
THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION WITHIN HIS COUNTRY, POINTING OUT THAT
BOTH MONOPOLISTIC CAPITAL GROUPS AND STATE CAPITALISM HAD BEEN

DONE AWAY WITH AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE APRIL 25, 1974 REVOLUTION. ACKNOWLEDGING PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC FRAGILITY, CUNHAL NONETHELESS MAINTAINED THAT PORTUGAL IS MORE ADVANCED ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY THAN THE OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. LATER HE STATED THAT IN ORDER FOR PORTUGAL TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, SUITABLE FORMS OF COLLABORATION MUST BE FOUND TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PORTUGAL'S NON-COMPETITIVENESS WITH EEC COUNTRIES IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS.

2. PARTICULARLY IN THE /L'UNITA INTERVIEW CUNHAL UNDERSCORED PCP CRITICISM OF THE CURRENT DOMESTIC POLICY OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT, ALLEGING THAT THE POLICY WILL NEITHER FIND SUPPORT AMONG THE WORKERS NOR RESOLVE THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY. SEVERAL TIMES CUNHAL REFERRED TO THE TENDENCY OF THE SOCIALIST POLICY TO LIQUIDATE AGRICULTURAL REFORM AND LIMIT THE POWER OF THE WORKERS IN THE FACTORIES. STATING THAT THE PCP FEARS THAT A CRISIS IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY MIGHT ALSO COMPORT DISASTER FOR THE COUNTRY, CUNHAL RENEWED THE PCP PROPOSAL OF A POPULAR FRONT OF THE LEFT, BASED UPON THE LEFTIST MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. HE ALSO REITERATED THE VALIDITY OF THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IN THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, STRESSING THAT THEIR DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RUN THE RISK OF PERMITTING THE REINVIGORATION OF REACTIONARY AND FASCIST FORCES ON THE RIGHT.

3. IN REFUSING TO COMMENT ON DISSENT WITHIN THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, CUNHAL EXPLAINED THAT THE PCP ALWAYS REJECTED INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN INITIATIVES AIMED AT SUPPORT OF

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DISSENTING GROUPS WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BECAUSE THE PCP CANNOT ADMIT COMPARISON BETWEEN POPULATIONS SUPPRESSED BY DICTATORS AND CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION, AND PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE VIOLATED THE LAWS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE /L'UNITA/ INTERVIEW CUNHAL STATED THAT HIS TALKS WITH PCI LEADERS WOULD REINFORCE THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, AND THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH OTHER ITALIAN POLITICAL LEADERS GAVE HIM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ITALIAN SITUATION WHILE OFFERING THE ITALIANS A BETTER VIEW OF CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL. CUNHAL SPENT THE WEEKEND TOURING THE NAPLES AREA PRIOR TO RETURNING TO ROME FOR THE CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT.BEAUDRY

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